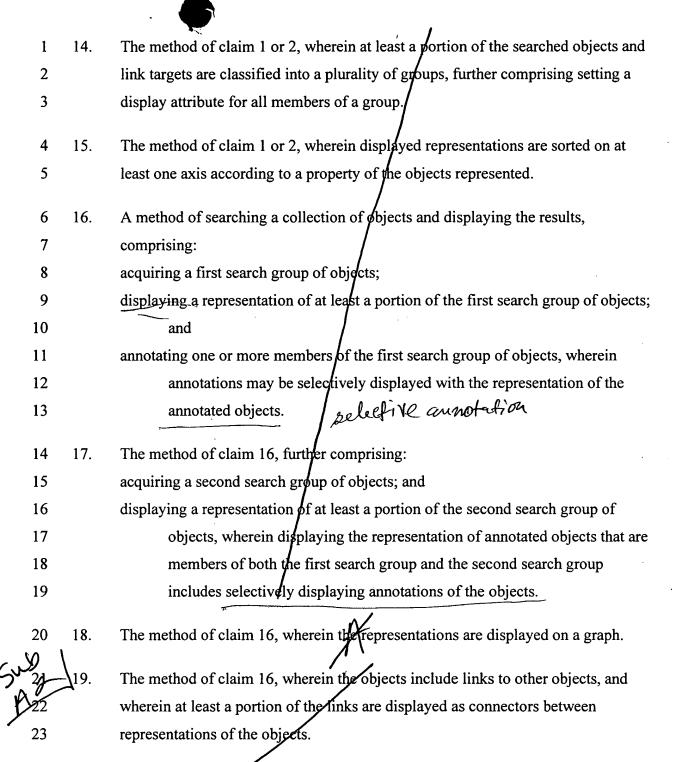1. A method of searching a collection of linked objects and displaying the results, comprising:

acquiring a search group of heterogeneously typed objects, wherein at least one of the objects comprises a link to another object;

determining for at least a portion of the objects in the search group a set of targets of links from the objects, including determining whether the link targets are inside the search group; and

displaying a representation of at least one searched object, the representation having at least one display attribute determined by the set of link targets.

2. A method of searching a collection of linked objects and displaying the results, comprising:

acquiring a search group of objects, wherein at least one of the objects comprises a link to another object;

determining for at least a portion of the objects in the search group a set of targets of links from the objects, including determining whether the link targets are inside the search group; and

displaying a representation of at least one searched object, the representation having at least one display attribute determined by the set of link targets, wherein displayed representations are arranged into a plurality of display layers, and wherein the display layers can be independently hidden or displayed.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the display attribute is selected from the group consisting of color, shape, size, position, highlighting, graphical flags, and labeling text.

4. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein representations of a plurality of objects are displayed on a graph.

5. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein representations of a plurality of objects are displayed, and wherein at least one link between objects is depicted by a connector between the representations.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein a display attribute of the connector is determined by a property selected from the group consisting of the type of the linking object, the type of the link target, and the type of the link.

7. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein a display attribute of the representation is determined by object metadata.

8. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein determining link targets includes recursively determining targets of links of an expanded set of objects comprising the original search group and the objects linked to by the search group.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the recursion level is in the range of 1-10.

10. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the search objects comprise documents selected from the group consisting of legal opinions, legal treatises, statutes, briefs, and law review articles.

11. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the search objects comprise scientific or medical writings, and wherein the links comprise citations to other scientific or medical writings.

12. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the search objects comprise patents and patent applications and the links comprise references to related patents and patent applications.

13. The method of claim 1 or 2, further comprising annotating at least one of the search objects.

1 14. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein at least a portion of the searched objects and
2 link targets are classified into a plurality of groups, further comprising setting a
3 display attribute for all members of a group.

4 15. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein displayed representations are sorted on at
5 least one axis according to a property of the objects represented.

6 16. A method of searching a collection of objects and displaying the results,
7 comprising:
8 acquiring a first search group of objects;
9 displaying a representation of at least a portion of the first search group of objects;
10 and
11 annotating one or more members of the first search group of objects, wherein
12 annotations may be selectively displayed with the representation of the
13 annotated objects. *selective annotation*

14 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
15 acquiring a second search group of objects; and
16 displaying a representation of at least a portion of the second search group of
17 objects, wherein displaying the representation of annotated objects that are
18 members of both the first search group and the second search group
19 includes selectively displaying annotations of the objects.

20 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the representations are displayed on a graph.

21 19. The method of claim 16, wherein the objects include links to other objects, and
22 wherein at least a portion of the links are displayed as connectors between
23 representations of the objects.

24 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising annotating one or more links.